CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

The Mabinogion

Anonymous · *1877* · *Lady Charlotte Guest*

King Arthur was at Caerlleon upon Usk; and one day he sat in his chamber, and with him were Owain the son of Urien, and Kynon the son of Clydno, and Kai the son of Kyner. In Guest's English the first tale of this volume is The Lady of the Fountain, not Pwyll.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What kind of honor, adventure, and otherworld meeting does this Welsh prose store keep, and how should Guest's English be read when its first tale is not the first of the Four Branches?

"King Arthur was at Caerlleon upon Usk; and one day he sat in his chamber;"

The Lady of the Fountain, the opening of the first tale in this edition

The hosted text is Lady Charlotte Guest's English of The Mabinogion (this text from the later nineteenth-century Guest volume; the site records the work as complete in her edition). In this edition the first tale is The Lady of the Fountain, not Pwyll Prince of Dyved; Pwyll is in the volume later, with the other branches. The opening is exact, including "Caerlleon upon Usk." Map the book as Guest's complete collection in this order; do not pretend the first page is the first of the Four Branches. A complete medieval Welsh prose store in a classic English, for a wide older band. Quote this typography.

KEY CHARACTERS

King Arthur
The king at Caerlleon upon Usk, in whose chamber the first tale opens.

Owain, Kynon, and Kai
The companions named in the first sitting, in Guest's English forms.

the Lady of the Fountain
The first tale's lady, whose story opens this edition.

Pwyll, and the later company of the branches
The later figures of the volume, not first in Guest's order.

CAERLLEON UPON USK

> *"King Arthur was at Caerlleon upon Usk; and one day he sat in his chamber;"*
>
> The Lady of the Fountain

Grades 9–12

Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Caerlleon upon Usk

THE LADY OF THE FOUNTAIN, FIRST IN THIS EDITION

King Arthur was at Caerlleon upon Usk; and one day he sat in his chamber, with Owain, Kynon, and Kai. Guest's volume begins in Arthur's room, not with Pwyll's first hunt.

- The opening is exact in both witnesses, including 'Caerlleon upon Usk.'
- The Lady of the Fountain is first in this edition; Pwyll is later in the volume.
- Do not teach the first page as the first of the Four Branches.

> *"King Arthur was at Caerlleon upon Usk; and one day he sat in his chamber;"*
>
> The Lady of the Fountain

02

Arthurian Tales, and the Branches

THE MIDDLE OF THE VOLUME

The book holds Arthurian romances and, later, the Four Branches and the other Welsh tales of Guest's store. Keep the pieces distinct, and keep Guest's order visible.

- Pwyll, and the other branches, are in the volume later.
- The names are Guest's English forms (Owain, Kynon, Kai, Caerlleon).
- A wide older band can read these with help.

03

Honor, and an Otherworld

THE LAW OF THE TALES

Adventure, a fountain, a wrong, and a meeting beyond the ordinary world are the weather of the first tale, and of much of the book. Teach the honor and the strangeness as written.

- Do not flatten the store into a mere Arthurian novel.
- Cite this typography.
- The collection is many tales, not one plot.

04

Guest's English, Complete as this Volume

THE HOSTED FILE

The site text and EPUB are Guest's collection in this order. Quote stretches that appear in both.

- Complete as this Guest volume.
- First tale: The Lady of the Fountain, not Pwyll.
- For a wide older band.

Honor | An Otherworld Meeting | A King's Chamber | A Welsh Store in English | Adventure

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The hosted text is Lady Charlotte Guest's English of The Mabinogion, complete as this volume. In this edition the first tale is The Lady of the Fountain, not Pwyll Prince of Dyved; Pwyll is in the volume later, with the other branches. The opening is exact: "King Arthur was at Caerlleon upon Usk; and one day he sat in his chamber;"
2. Map the book as Guest's complete collection in this order; do not pretend the first page is the first of the Four Branches. The names are Guest's English forms (Owain, Kynon, Kai, Caerlleon). For a wide older band.
3. Quote stretches that appear in both the Gutenberg text and the site EPUB.

Quotations are verbatim from the Lady Charlotte Guest, Project Gutenberg #5160, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/the-mabinogion/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.